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Hanson '11, Torgerson '11, and Weber '11 honored with MENC awards

Summary: The three music majors received the Professional Achievement Award.

(October 21, 2010)-Donovan Hanson '11 from Ada, Matthew Torgerson '11 from Clinton, and Alexandra Weber '11 from Milbank, South Dakota, all University of Minnesota Morris music majors, were honored by the Music Educators' National Organization (MENC) with its prestigious Professional Achievement Award. All three students have been strongly involved in the leadership of the Morris chapter of this important professional organization, as its president, vice president, and secretary.

MENC distinguished these three outstanding members for exemplary chapter activities and member achievements, serving as role models for other collegiate chapters, and recognizing their contributions to the music education profession. The award recipients achievements include, among many others, the organization and leadership of field trips to the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago and to the Minnesota Music Educators' Association's Midwinter Clinic in Minneapolis, as well as the inauguration of a new presentation series on the Morris campus.

Weber, the current president of Morris's chapter of MENC, is honored to receive the award. "Donovan, Matt, and I were trying our hardest to make MENC a more noticeable organization on campus, and we took giant steps towards that goal. This year MENC is trying to continue that forward motion by hosting speakers, going to the MMEA conference in the spring, and other activities. Receiving this award helps with the motivation to keep up the hard work and to make MENC even better here on campus."

Martin Seggelke, assistant professor of music and adviser of Morris's chapter of MENC, added, "They have exhibited exceptional leadership skills, along with excellent organizational talents. They have invested a lot of time and committed work, and they certainly are most deserving of this recognition."

The purpose of the MENC Professional Achievement recognition is to distinguish individual collegiate members for their commitment and dedication to MENC and music education. This recognition is given to collegiate members who have served their chapters in an exemplary manner. In addition, current and prior enrollment in an active MENC collegiate chapter for at least two years and an overall minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale are among the required criteria.

MENC, among the world's largest arts education organizations, marked its centennial in 2007 as the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. Through membership of more than 75,000 music teachers, and with 60,000 honor students and supporters, MENC serves millions of students nationwide through activities at all teaching levels, from preschool to graduate school. Since 1907, MENC has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers. MENC's activities and resources have been largely responsible for the establishment of music education as a profession, for the promotion and guidance of music study as an integral part of the school curriculum, and for the development of the National Standards for Arts Education.

Photo above: Alexandra Weber

Photo below from left: Matt Torgerson and Donovan Hanson

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